

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 3, 2006. Claims 1 and 6 to 9 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is the sole remaining independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings have been amended to add a "Prior Art" legend to Figure 25 as required by the Examiner. A Letter Transmitting Formal Drawings, with a replacement drawing sheet, accompanies this Amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that Claims 5 to 9 contain allowable subject matter. Based on that indication, the substance of Claim 5 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, wherefore it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

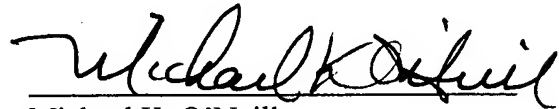
Claims 1 to 4 and 10 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,933,184 (Ishigami) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0037585 (Ishiguro). In addition, Claims 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections, in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and expedite issuance. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections. It is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application directed to the rejected claims.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.

Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

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An English language abstract of the Japanese reference cited above has been located and is enclosed. In addition, it is believed that U.S. Patent 5,933,184 is an English language counterpart to Japan 9-174917; that U.S. patent was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated November 8, 2005.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

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Respectfully submitted,

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